

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /151 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TD:DANDERSON:CB

APPROVED BY EB/TD:TENELSON

EUR/SOV - M. J. WILKINSON

NEA/INS - J. HAWES

INR/RES - I. N. BELOUSOVITCH

SCI/SAM - W. A. CHAPIN

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R 281830Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, UR, IN, (SMIRNOV, N D)

SUBJECT: USSR/INDIA: SPACE COOPERATION.

1. APPRECIATE LEARNING, VIA NEW DELHI 0476 SENT SECSTATE ONLY, OF TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE OF 18 JANUARY REPORTING SOVIET SPACE DELEGATION DUE NEW DELHI 22 JANUARY TO SIGN SPACE COOPERATION AGREEMENT THAT WEEK. ARTICLE STATED THAT USSR WOULD HELP INDIA FABRICATE A "SOPHISTICATED SPACE SATELLITE", WHICH EMBASSY NEW DELHI NOTED WAS IN ADDITION TO SATELLITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BANGALORE.

2. TIMES OF INDIA REPORT MAY SHED LIGHT ON REMARKS BY N. D. SMIRNOV, USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO USG OFFICIALS IN LONDON 11 JANUARY IN COURSE OF IMCO MEETING ON MARITIME COMMUNICATION SATELLITES. QUESTIONED ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS REGARDING A FUTURE SOVIET GEOSTATIONARY
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SATELLITE IN EQUATORIAL ORBIT, SMIRNOV REPLIED THAT A

GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITE WOULD PROBABLY BE LAUNCHED DURING CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR. SMIRNOV ADDED THAT THIS ACTIVITY WOULD INVOLVE FORMAL BILATERAL SPACE COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER COUNTRY, UNNAMED, PROVIDING LAUNCH SITE.

3. LAUNCHING OF GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITE FROM POINT DISTANT FROM EQUATOR (E.G., USSR) POSES SERIOUS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, WHICH SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME. THUS, NEW DELHI'S 0476 COUPLED WITH SMIRNOV'S

REMARKS RAISES POSSIBILITY USSR-INDIA AGREEMENT MAY COVER LAUNCHING FACILITIES IN INDIA FOR SOVIET SATELLITES, AS

WELL AS LAUNCHING OF INDIAN-MADE SATELLITE IN USSR.

4. ADDRESSEES REQUESTED REPORT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS DEVELOPED ON SOVIET/INDIAN INTENTIONS OR ACTION RELATING TO SPACE SATELLITE COOPERATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE017857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DANDERSON:CB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740111/aaaaajzq.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USSR/INDIA: SPACE COOPERATION.
TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, UR, IN, (SMIRNOV, N D)
To: MOSCOW NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005